

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A model adaptation apparatus ~~according to Claim 1, for~~  
adapting a model used in pattern recognition in which input data in the form of a time series is  
classified into one of a predetermined number of models, said apparatus comprising:

data extraction means for extracting input data corresponding to a predetermined model,  
observed during a predetermined interval, and then outputting the extracted data; and

a model adaptation means for adapting said predetermined model using said data  
extracted during said predetermined interval by means of one of the maximum likelihood  
method, the mixed statistic method, and the minimum distance-maximum separation theorem;  
wherein said model adaptation means adapts an acoustic model for ambient noise during a noise  
observation interval that ends when a speech switch is turned on when a user starts speech;

wherein[[:] said noise observation interval has a first sub-interval and a second sub-  
interval beginning when the first sub-interval ends,

said data extraction means extracts a feature distribution corresponding to ambient noise  
during said first sub-interval of a noise observation interval, and

said model adaptation means adapts said acoustic model for ambient noise during said  
second sub-interval.